

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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SECURITY

The sense of insecurity in the human mind is doubtless more prevalent than we should imagine at first thought. We do not have to gain much experience of the world until we begin to be conscious of its perils. There are its physical perils, to life and limb, to health, to that bodily well being which issues in buoyant vigor and joy of existence. We soon learn how frail we are, and how we are environed with the possibility of hurt, how we may be hurled in an instant out of the world, or languish to a slow and wasting death on couches of pain. We are hourly conscious that the forces of dissolution abound on every hand. Science tells us of the infinitesimal agents of deadly maladies which we cannot see, and against which we feel that we are helpless and defenseless. Germs of disease in endless and malignant variety float in the atmosphere, hide in our food, sport in the water we drink, lie in wait against us when we rise up and when we lie down, in the house or in the field, in the street or in the sanctuary. We are not safe anywhere. Exterior contagion conspires with inherent mortality to fling us into untimely graves. He who has the power of death is abroad, going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it, seeking whom he may devour.

But this brings us to another aspect of our subject. Like the microbes of disease he is an invisible enemy, but unlike them he is not an infinitesimal one. Mighty is his power and consummate is his cunning. The Apostle tells us that he is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, but we also know that he is almost infinitely cunning in his devices, so that multitudes are entangled in his snares. With such an enemy what sense of security have we? Perils to body and mind and soul are involved in the fact that this fierce ranger is abroad, and that he is ever present, and ever ready, and ever armed to take every advantage of our weakness or our indiscretion, to overwhelm us in ruin and misery. Along with these perils to health, mind, heart, life, soul, there are others to which we are exposed, temporal losses, such as fire and flood may inflict, vanishing wealth, crashing banks, wasting disease among the flocks and herds, one of a hundred incidents and accidents which may hurl us from affluence to poverty. Worldly riches have vigorous wings, and they often fly away, minding not our supplication to return. Small is our power to prevent any of these ca-

lamities. For the most part our enemies are invisible, and stronger than we, lying in wait for us at every turn, ready to spring upon us from every ambush. How men and women can be content to live on under this sense of helpless insecurity is more than we can tell. One would think that the burden would be insupportable, and that the harrassed and persecuted mind would sink into insanity and despair. Perhaps we do not know how heavy this burden is, how it crushes thousands and millions beneath its mountain weight. Perhaps we do not know how all the joy of life is drained out of multitudes by the haunting consciousness that evil is ever present, merciless and powerful. And this burden of apprehension is all the more pitiful that it is needless.

It is needless because we have a refuge. It is needless because we may hide "under the shadow of his wings, and in the hollow of his hand," where no harm can come to us without his permission, where not even a hair of our heads can be touched, nor the smell of smoke come upon our garments. A divine refuge under our Father's protection, who maketh all things to work together for good. Physical enemies, accident, the germs of disease, impairment of health, or severance of life, can not harm us, for they may not come without the divine will, and coming then work for us our highest good. Satan the enemy of the soul sets his snares in vain. His devices are turned away harmless, his arrows are blunted against our protecting shield. Is there anything in literature to be compared with the ninety-first psalm? If you are distressed with the feeling of helplessness and insecurity, read it, and in the sublime refuge it discloses find there the beautiful upspringing of a calm and restful peace.

ENDOW THE COLLEGE

Why? Because he who builds in the hearts and minds of our rising youth, builds in a large way on the rock of ages.

Endow the college.—Why? Because intimately and inseparably connected with the growth, the prosperity and triumphs of the church is the establishment and continued support of the denominational school.

Endow the college.—Yes, lift it above all possible vicissitudes. Supply abundantly all the elements of success and power.